

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/22/2023 8:36:55 PM

First name: Mary

Last name: Hurley

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I urge the U.S. Forest Service to change the current supplemental draft environmental impact statement (SDEIS) to eliminate the 10 domestic sheep allotments covering approximately 144,000 acres in the High Uintas Wilderness in Utah which would allow grazing for more than 10,000 domestic sheep and their lambs every summer for two months.

This wilderness area is a prime area for recovery of the native Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep and predator habitat including bears, coyotes, and mountain lions. The continued allowing of this wilderness for domestic sheep mars the wilderness landscape and allows for the policy of killing predators. The domestic sheep also carry diseases fatal to the more fragile population of the bighorn sheep. Additionally, killing predators to protect domestic sheep is harmful for recovery of predators such as wolves and grizzly bears.

Our national lands are meant to provide for a number of uses. For most of our history, the role of wilderness has been a much lower priority to other uses such as grazing, mining, and logging. At a time of extreme climate change, it is critical to protect remaining wilderness habitat and species that live there. Many other areas of the West are dominated by grazing or more suitable. This area needs to be devoid of that use and devoted to wilderness use.

Thank you.